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117

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FIG. 53. Variegated *Crassula argentea* grown by Frank Mark, Los Angeles. Stripes of green, yellow, and white blend into almost pure white leaves. Some collectors specialize in variegated plants.



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

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RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

Leaflets of Popular Information

April 9, 1943. "Yucca schidigera" (from Latin for shaving or splinter, and used here in reference to the curled or shaving-like marginal fibers of the leaves) was described as new in 1871 by Artiges who credited it to Roezl, an European collector, who had found it near San Diego in 1869. This name was long overlooked. Plants of this species seen by early botanical explorers were long thought to be a form of *Y. baccata*, a very different species. In 1896, C. S. Sargent (famous Director of the Arnold Arboretum) proposed the name *Y. mobavensis*, which has been generally used for this plant. However, Mrs. McKelvey (Yuccas of the Southwestern United States, Part I, pages 92-104, 1938) has clearly shown that *Y. schidigera* has to be accepted because it has priority."

FROM CANADA

From time to time I have noticed letters in the JOURNAL from Canadian members and I suppose there are probably more cactus enthusiasts in Canada than one would think. It might be a matter of interest to those persons so located that it is still possible to import cacti in limited quantities from the United States. I have found that most people are of the opinion that all importations are banned for the duration of war. Importations are, of course, not encouraged, and importation of all ornamental plants has been stopped I believe, with the exception of small incidental and gift orders amounting to less than \$5.00. It is therefore still possible to obtain a few plants to add interest to one's collection, now and then. It should be emphasized that orders must, however, be kept small (under \$5) or importation may be refused.

May I say that even with all the war activity and other distracting issues, the culture of the "spiny brutes" still intrigues me and I look forward to your splendid JOURNAL each month. Am awaiting detailed reports of the results on the experimental plants.

R. W. GRAHAM.

EASTERN CACTUS NEWS

There is a little agitation here on Staten Island to form a junior cactus and succulent club. It is not known yet whether or not it will succeed. It would be part of the Junior Museum of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The men at an Army Advanced Desert Training Station in southern California have made a cactus garden, transplanting larger and smaller plants from the desert. They are beautiful when in bloom, reports the Commanding Officer, on furlough in New York City.

Haworthias and Gasterias seem to be the ideal plants for this climate on Staten Island. The days are very hot (96) and humid (94%) and the nights are cool, almost cold 65-70.

The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, of which N. L. Britton was one of the founders, possesses his cactus library, including the original edition of the "Cactaceae" and the first three volumes of the JOURNAL.

E. M. CURRAN.

NEW BOOKLET FOR FIVE AND TENS

Through the cooperation of the largest cactus and succulent dealer in the country we have prepared a 64 page cultural booklet "Cacti and Succulents and How to Grow Them." This 25 cents booklet will sell wherever inexpensive plants are sold. Admittedly it is a rehash of the same information as is contained in "Cacti for the Amateur" but its purpose is to reach the beginner who is buying his first 10c cactus. There are 70 pictures and a cover in color. This booklet was not written for society members but for their friends whom they would like to convert to the cause. The pictures alone tell the story and the list of standard common names should remove the fear for the beginner. Your suggestions about this book will be appreciated. Send 25c for a sample copy. Abbey Garden Press, Box 101, Pasadena 16, Calif.

EPIPHYLLUM BOOK

The response to the proposed book on Epiphyllums was so gratifying that its publication is assured. Those who are cooperating unselfishly for the good of the cause will have an opportunity to read the page proofs before publication for suggestions and criticism. Dealers who are helping to make this popular book a success will be entitled to additional discounts as recognition for their help.

VICTORY PICTURE BOOK

Several have written that they have not received their free copy of Hummel's Picture Book. This may be due to the fact that it was made a part of the March, 1942, JOURNAL and was not mailed as a separate book.

TEXAS CACTI

By Schulz and Runyan. This is one of the finest reference books for your library. After our supply is sold it will never be again available. Invest \$3 now for a cloth bound copy.

CACTACEAE (or Naming Cacti)—Marshall and Bock, 250 pages 9x12, 160 photos and 30 plates containing drawings of 146 genera. Tells the chief differences between the varied groups, or genera. Illustrated keys make classification understandable. Bound in heavy art linen. \$5.10 postpaid, U. S. A. Add Sales Tax in California. Box 101, Pasadena, Calif.



FIG. 54. Exit from National Herbarium, Pretoria, So. Africa. Note the hedge of *Crassula argentea* Thunb. on both sides of the walk.

Notes On Some *Crassula* Species

By R. A. DYER

The display of *Crassula argentea* Thunb. on either side of the pathway leading to the National Herbarium, Pretoria, was exceptionally fine in 1942. The opportunity of photographing it was not to be missed. So often in Pretoria, *Crassula argentea* is caught by the frost before it reaches the peak of its beauty. The camera was out early in June and none too early for two nights later a comparatively heavy frost of 14° F. reduced most of the flowers and branch tips to a flabby discoloured mass. *C. argentea* does not normally experience such cold in its native habitat in the karoid scrub of the eastern Cape Province and in those surroundings may develop into a robust succulent shrub up to 6 ft. or even more in height. It makes a beautiful and uncommon hedge, provided, as indicated above, the temperature does not fall too low. Its beauty will be observed in the accompanying illustrations although some unevenness in height had been caused by frosts in earlier seasons.

C. argentea grows from cuttings with the utmost ease, in fact branches discarded on the rubbish heap usually take root and flourish. It is a fine succulent for the background of a rock-

ery and its pink-tinted flowers are attractive for quite a lengthy period. Moreover, it is most decorative as a cut flower. It will remain fresh in water for three weeks or more. Even if one happens to be neglectful to the third degree by omitting to replenish the water, the twigs of *C. argentea* show no signs of deterioration for a couple of days.

It may be that this species is still thought of as *C. portulacea* Lam. by some workers. It was classified under this name in *Flora Capensis*, but fortunately Schonland, in his Revision in *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr.* 17, 1929, had already discovered the necessity of giving priority to Thunberg's name.

In *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, Mar., 1942*, J. R. Brown extolled the virtues of *C. lactea* as a decorative succulent plant. It is a much figured plant and at least eight coloured and as many uncoloured plates have been published since its introduction to European gardens not later than 1774. It was then that Masson, the first Kew Gardener to visit South Africa, sent the plants to Kew which were described for the

*Illustrated on pages 42-43

first time in Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis*, 1789. The natural distribution of *C. lactea*, like that of *C. argentea* is mainly in the dryish scrub of the eastern Cape Province, and extends eastwards

into Natal, for which reason it did not come into the range of the earliest botanical collectors at the Cape.

Crassula lactea has recently been painted



FIG. 55. Pot grown specimen of *Crassula argentea* in California. J. R. Brown photo.



FIG. 56. Close up of flowers of *Crassula argentea*. J. R. Brown photo.

again, this time for illustrating the pages of Flowering Plants of South Africa. The opportunity is being taken of drawing attention to the question of authorship of the specific name. The issue arose, it seems fairly evident, to some form of intellectual snobbery. It was common property that Aiton, head gardener of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, took plants to the British Museum, London, to have them classified, firstly by Solander and later by Dryander, because there was no herbarium or botanist at Kew Gardens at that time. It was Dryander who piloted the first edition of Aiton's Hortus Kewensis through the press. In spite of this, and surely of his own choice, neither his name, nor that of Solander, appears in the work. Unless otherwise stated in the publication Aiton must be regarded as the author of the names of any new species. It was argued, however, that as Solander and Dryander had drawn up the descriptions of species of *Crassula* and other genera they should receive credit for their work, with the result that standard books of reference give the citations "Solander" or "Dryander in Ait. Hort. Kew." This procedure cannot be upheld. The case has been dealt with by Britten and Baker in Journ. Bot. 35, 477 (1897) and by Britten ibid. 50, suppl. 3 (1912). Unfortunate-

ly Schonland in Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. 17, 1929, helped to perpetuate the misconception but Stapf in Index Londinensis 2, 1930, gives the authorship for all species of *Crassula* described for the first time in Aiton's Hort. Kew. to Aiton alone.

Another species of *Crassula* recently figured in Flowering Plants of South Africa is *C. perforata*¹ Thunb. This will recall the differences of opinion expressed by Mrs. Vera Higgins² and the writer³ in connection with this species and *C. rupestris* Thunb. Correspondence has since passed between us. Broadly speaking, we agree that careful field work correlated with a study of cultivated plants and type specimens might well demonstrate that more than two species are at present being classified under the two names, *C. perforata* and *C. rupestris*.

The unique species *C. barbata* Thunb. has also come under notice recently but further comment on this and other species will have to be postponed until a later date.

¹See colored illustration in "Succulents for the Amateur" Fig. 5.

²Cactus and Succulent Journal, July, 1941, page 109 (illus.).

³Cactus and Succulent Journal, Dec., 1941, page 193 (illus.).



The first milestone in the life of the Henry Shaw Cactus Society has been passed. Last month this St. Louis club celebrated its first anniversary by staging a barbecue picnic in outlying Florissant at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Blandford. The picnic was a huge success with 65 members and friends in attendance. Misses Bathildes Helmer and Martha Nunn, entertainment committee supreme, did not allow one dull moment to mar the celebration. They were on the go from the very beginning, improvising all kinds of games in which the members participated, and then awarded the winners of each contest with small potted cacti. Mr. and Mrs. George Davis donated the monthly attendance prize, a huge cespitose *Aloe* from their own collection. The women of the organization, headed by Mrs. Arthur Frank, deserve much credit for the fine food prepared for the jubilant crowd. Messrs. Blandford, Kropf and Young also must be commended for the tasty ribs which these men produced on the two barbecue pits at their disposal. Already there is talk of another outdoor celebration for September.

I write this commentary with the sole purpose of letting you readers know about the enterprising bunch of cactus enthusiasts in our organization. Every member is a true cactus fan,—regardless how small his collection or what little knowledge he or she possesses. All of them know the value of teamwork and therefore cooperate to the fullest extent. It is only in this way harmony will reign in this club, or for fact in any other club. We do not tolerate cliques.

When other affiliates are curtailing their programs, the Henry Shaw Cactus Society keeps planning for bigger things. The greatest mistake our cactus clubs are making today is when they suspend meetings for the duration. Yes, we realize that there is a war going on; we, too, have friends and relatives serving in the armed forces on far-flung battlefronts; we also are tremendously busy with civilian defense work and what not. Yet we are expanding, rather than curtailing, our program. Now, more than ever before, we need the friendships of our cactus fellowmen. Now, more than ever before, we need our hobbies in which to find respite from the turmoil that engulfs us. Those of you, who have erased the monthly meetings from your list, won't you get into the regular habit of attending again? If you really and truly are interested in cactus and succulent plants, then "keep the home fires burning." I know you will.

* * * *

Did you know, that right in St. Louis, the Old Peacock Sultan Company has been making a pillet from a *Selenicereus* for half a century? The product is known as CACTINA PILLETS and is made from the fresh green stalks of the night blooming cereus that grows in the mountains of Vera Cruz in Mexico. (Mr. Fred Sultan, president of the company, informs me that the plant is apparently *Selenicereus spinulosus*, but I am more inclined to think it is *S. coniflorus* on the authority of Britton & Rose). This product, when used alone or in association with more emphatic cardiotics, is often useful in correcting functional arrhythmias, especially when these are due to fatigue, emotion, indigestion and similar causes. The drug was

first brought into notice as a cardiac remedy by Rubini of Naples in 1896 and ever since has been used quite consistently by the homeopathic and eclectic professions of medicine. The results of physiological experiments have been very unsatisfactory because its action is so attenuated, and those physicians who use it claim that its true cardiac action is only manifested after long use. CACTINA PILLETS is a heart remedy and therefore is never advertised to the public. Its exploitation is confined to the medical profession only, especially to homeopaths.

* * * *

Do you want to know how Mrs. R. C. Anderson of Des Moines, Iowa, got started in her hobby? Credit it to the popular boxing glove cactus, *Opuntia mammillata cristata*. Her aunt possessed this crested oddity and somehow Dorothy Anderson became fascinated by it. One day, while shopping in the ten-cent store, she bought a couple of plants, one being an *Aloe* and the other a *Cereus*. Another dime-store visit netted two or three other specimens. Then she became acquainted with Mrs. Ray Naylor and her hobby really grew. When the Andersons moved close to the Nailors, both Dorothy and Mary began gathering all the books and literature they could find, to say nothing of frequent trips to greenhouses in the city for plants. Both of these enterprising ladies read a lot of cactus books during the winter months and then the botanical names didn't seem so very difficult to "digest." In fact Mary and Dorothy practised on their husbands and by repeating the names a few times aloud, were able to remember them. Mrs. Anderson does not have as many plants now as in the past, but there must be at least 150 different kinds. She prefers the succulents and really "goes" for the Haworthias in a big way.

* * * *

Just recently received a letter from Mrs. Muriel Waterman of New Zealand. Informs me that she was greatly "tickled" about the writeup in the February *Spine Chats*. Couldn't figure how I could condense so much of her life in such a small space. She first read it in the bus and ferry on her way to town and, when she came across the lines about herself, unconsciously laughed out loud; then found everyone around her grinning. Since then she has shown the copy to lots of friends. Mrs. Waterman writes further that she just loves getting to "know" people and claims that my pithy little bits will help a lot. I only hope that other readers will feel the same way about my *Spine Chats*.

* * * *

Mr. Carlos T. Earle of Route 1, Bradenton, Florida, would like to get in touch with some folks who have a surplus of plants they'd like to give away for experimental purpose in the peninsular state. Mr. Earle is planning to grow them in a semi-wild condition to determine their adaptability in Florida. His interest leans strongly toward the *Cereanae* and the *Hylocereanae*, but other groups are welcome. Persons interested in the project are asked to write to him first before shipping plants.

* * * *

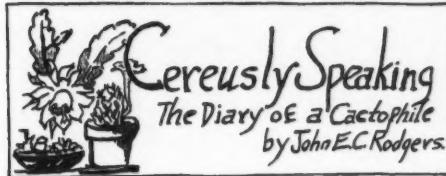
Certain *Euphorbia* fruits explode and set up quite a bombardment when they are ripe, broadcasting their seeds over a large area.

The next 4 pages are the 12 installment of Werdermann's "Brasilian und Seine Saulenkakteen."

PARODIAS

Are you a lover of the beautiful, the graceful, the symmetrical? If so, Parodias* should appeal to you. These small gems from the mountains of Argentina have won their way into my heart; partly because they are so "easy on the eyes," and partly because they grow readily in our changeable climate. I find them easy to flower, too, as at present (June 7th) I have two in bloom—*P. aureispina* and *P. scopaooides*. The former, now two inches in diameter, bloomed last year at this time also, having in each instance four yellow flowers each of which is also two inches across. *P. scopaooides* is blooming for the first time this year, and there were two flowers, yellow also, but even prettier (to me) than its "chum." This little plant is now 1½ inches in diameter. Both plants have harmless hooked spines and fat pastel green bodies. Thus far I've been able to locate only ten species of this genus, four of which are in my collection at present, and more to come soon. My *P. sanguiniflora* is still too small to bloom, but when it does it should be a real pleasure as it has white spines and the flower will be ruby-red. May the day arrive speedily!

MRS. E. V. SCHNEIDER, Ohio.



CULTURE IN OHIO

August 1. Fulfillment—coal in bin. Disillusionment—flies laying eggs in *Stapelia nobilis* and *grandiflora* blooms day after day, year after year with high "infant" mortality. Tragedy—small fly trying to scale hairy walls of *Ceropegia stapeliformis* and being thrown back to the bottom of the flower—eventually death within "prison walls." Beauty—large dragon flies catching mosquitoes in air above plants. Perseverance—*Lemaireocereus bollianus* dies back to three-inch stubs—resumes growth then repeats (some rare earth needed—can't find cause otherwise). Discovery—*Malacocarpus ottonis* throws out on slender underground roots light brown offsets, resemble thistle buds which eventually come to surface and turn green.

Aug. 2. Got busy at 6:30 A. M.—imagine me who likes sleep—in Cactus House. Quite cool, 70°. Condensation on roof glass. Worked for two hours with tweezers, sprays, and aerator (name for my old fork soil tiller). Then breakfast. I'm always afraid I'll "be weighted and found wanting" as a certain writer was. Wrote in farm papers about sheep. One day a man stopped a mile or so down the road, "Where does J. G. Shepherd live?" he asked, "Don't know," the farmer said, scratching his head. "You don't know J. G. Shepherd, the writer in the Golden Fleece magazine." "Oh, him? Go down the road a mile or so. When you see dead sheep, rotten fences and buildings, that's his place." No, sir! I don't want visiting cactophiles to say that about me and my plants. When it got too hot, sat under grape arbor and potted up 25 new cacti—Notocacti, Gymnocalyciums, Mammillarias, Echinopsis, Parodias and Lobivias—from Johnson. Fine plants, good root systems and packed

*See inside cover illustration of 'Cacti and Succulents and How to Grow Them.' Photo by Oliver P. Young, Maine.

as only experienced packers pack those delicate spined plants. Another Johnson convert—certainly you get what he describes.

Aug. 4. Used Borax solution instead of lime on my Ferocacti about a month ago. Dr. Machwart medico-cactophile of Parma, Ohio, reported to our club that Borax was supposed to be one of the ingredients of the soil in Ferocacti country. Is responsible for the beauty of the spines on these plant fortresses. "No sooner said than done." So far the plants are still living and putting out new spines of good color—as far as I can see the only thing that Borax contains that soap doesn't is boron. I've never heard that Borax is dangerous to the health of plants, so its my report to you. Powdered Borax would approximate nature but I believe in speed—solution speeds up absorption.

Aug. 7-8. In Warren to visit and observe growing methods of fellow cactophiles. Found the spring rains and etiolation had played havoc with several small collections. Poor drainage and storage methods. R. N. Fiske, Dr. V. P., has his plants up on wooden benches fitted with sand. Southeast exposure. His Ariocarpus collection is a joy to behold. All of the plants listed and in good health.

Aug. 11. *Crassula (Rochea) falcata* bloomed the first time. Why I've had that plant (see column, Jan. 12, 1943) growing for three years—soil one-half leaf mold, one third sand, and clay-loam the rest. Leaves over four inches long and one and one-half inches wide. Foot high. Water three times a week during the growing season and once a week in winter. Just enough in fact to keep it from losing its lower leaves. Keep it near the side glass where it gets the morning and afternoon sun. Its parent, the plant I've had for ten years, has never bloomed. Not over six inches tall. Has eight various sized offsets. Pot bound all right but its offspring isn't. Its study offspring in a four-inch pot has two four-inch offsets. Evidently it doesn't have to be pot-bound to bloom.

Aug. 13. Several have asked me to recommend plants which bloom "under various difficult conditions." I'll head the list with my most prolific bloomer the yellow *Malacocarpus bennisi* (Johnson catalog page 26). See column July 1, 1943; red *Lobivia hertrichiana*; yellow *Hamatocactus (Ferocactus) hamatatus* and *setispinus*; pink *Theleocactus bicolor*; white *Echinopsis albiflora*; chartreuse *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*; pink *Zygocactus truncatus* and red *Schlumbergera gaertneri*. Here are nine plants that bloom "under various difficult conditions" for me. I could add to this list but these plants are consistent bloomers over most of my ten year "bloom record." Mammillarias galore could be added, too. Not for blooms—unless *sphaerica* or *magnimamma* but for spines and form. Three of the newer ones in my collection four years—*Rebutia minuscula*, *kupperiana*, and *violaceiflora* are all small and compact. Musts for enjoyable window gardening.

Aug. 16. After a hectic growing season my *Sempervivums* have pushed up islands of soil for their roots, showered their offspring down over these. They're not going to be caught by another deluge without an "ark." Spring was bad enough for them. Deceived me a while, weatherman said, "Abnormally normal rainfall" but not those succulents with their "dry ancestors." My eighteen varieties are now in a raised bed of well drained soil can't depend upon "normal rainfall." *Opuntia compressa* and varieties are through blooming now and no fruit set. Usually one bloom at least gets its right to regenerate itself. Prolific cuttings enough. Dr. Machwart and several of my friends have thrown out or given away clump after clump and now (much as nature repays us when we try to

control her) my good friends are scurrying galore trying to find *O. compressa* to replace their former profligate uprootings. By the way, me and my *Acanthocereus* success have parted ways. What's yours—fellow cactophiles—what's yours? Used peridichlorobenzine (used for moths) to discourage ants. Little beasties "think my nice pots of well drained soil are Ant-Apartment houses. Two liquid discouragers are made with "Sheps" and "Black Leaf 40" (see directions on containers) all three work, I've found.

Aug. 19. As I look back fifteen years, then ten, then five, I am surprised how fickle a cactophile I've been. My first cactus love was native, "Go west, young man, go west," then Mexican, "South of the Border," then my "good neighbor policy is South Americans." What next, my third "Five Year Plan" is almost up? I lose old friends and make new. When my collection was smaller I was a friendlier person—each plant was a personal friend not an acquaintance. I knew them all by name as well as their peculiar likes or dislikes. One plant dead meant an irreplaceable loss. Couldn't get books. Saw "Our Native Cacti" by Ethel Bailey Higgins (1931), and of course I sent for it. It came, I saw, I read. Chapter VI listed other books expensive or out of print. Sent to England for Watson's, "Cacti Culture for Amateurs." A friend gave me government circular 66, "Cacti" by Griffiths. What joys these books gave me. You have, thanks to Scott Haselton, books written for amateurs. Now I need money, as there are plenty of books. Looking back, must be getting old—but I'm a diaryist and have to look back.

Aug. 21. *Gymnocalycium anisitsii* bloomed white and beautiful. Knew it was a *Gymno*, but couldn't identify until I ordered a duplicate from Johnson. Find it easy to read descriptions but unless a picture accompanies it it's hard for me to see the "trees for the wood." I look up a plant under *Rebutia*—find flower red, funnelform (there are only a hundred or less reds and funnels may be many shapes). I found a small *Rebutia* labelled "Kupperiana" when I bought it. Has a red, funnelform bloom but—bloom is over an inch long—blood red inner perianth segments and purple-red outer; the tube is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, straight, as large as an oat straw, no taper, with three hairy scales on it—every small and scaly—flowers flares out with greenish outer perianth segments connected to top like any other flower calyx. *Kupperiana*—I ask you? Funnelform, yes?

Aug. 22. Mrs. Lynds Jones here "bearing gifts." Brought me three of her large plants with that "glad to have them in such good hands" look. No, she didn't want any plants in return. Just couldn't add another plant to her collection. I showed her my plants while Professor Jones looked over my flower borders, grape arbor, etc. Saw Mrs. Jones was interested in several of my plants. I offered and she accepted. Professor Jones chuckled, "dispose of three and get six." I find that everywhere I go. There is no limit to us cactophiles, we're hopeless—another species—you have an extra—why I'd be glad to (bars go down, inhibitions vanish, yes, sir) took a small one (not less than a foot high usually). Greenhouse not half large enough says Mrs. Sandy, my mother-in-law, and I've added over two hundred plants since then. Shelves on mullions, benches in aisles. Room? Why just around that corner I could add another section—so it goes. I'm not weakminded like other cactophiles, says I—you're not says "Danny Deamon" just wait until you see another cactus.

Aug. 25. Reread and looked at the pictures in the B. H. & G. "Gardening Guide." Fay Hattenlocher's "Interesting Succulents" and Alfred Carl Hotte's "Your Cactus and Succulent Questions Answered" are

both reprints from past issues of B. H. & G. Window Garden ideas and suggestions for use of plants, light, soil, etc. Good information for us amateurs. (It only costs 50c, but 200 pages of plant, vegetable and decoration ideas will repay the other non-convert of your household.)

Aug. 27. *Rhipsalis* collection hanging in the shade of the Grape Arbor has responded to rain and fertilizer, with plenty of healthy growth. Winter snows can come—can't stop my January and February "flower show"—staged each year—white, pink, orange, yellow and buff. Moisture in the air has helped to put on an *Epiphyllum* display for almost a week—*darrabii*, *anguliger*, *cartagense*, *pittieri*, *macropterum* and *oxypetalum* all white, fragrant and exquisite. Spring and summer manure water soakings have made the difference in size and profuse bloomings. *Ackermannii* has buds ready to open, too. *Opuntia monacantha*—six feet tall—is through with its display. Only one fruit on the side of a pad.

Aug. 29. Can't believe those four fruits on *Epiphyllum ackermannii* can be the result of my hybridizing. Three with *Echinopsis albiflora* and one with *Aporocactus flagelliformis*. I marked them. The other fifty flowers in May left only the scar on the stem, but no fruit. Fruits are five inches in circumference and three inches long. (Nope, don't ask me to include them in your *Epiphyllum* book—too far ahead—chickens not counted, you know.)

Aug. 31. Seven more days of vacation then I resume my vocation. Soon it will be time to get plants hardened for winter storage, heating unit overhauled and installed, pots and soil ready for plants in outside open beds. Pots in quarantine at my "Ellis Island" until all immigrants have been interned for investigation. Check successes and failures of numerous experiments (I carry on with my plants). Put up more shelves. Yes, sir, a hobby takes work, but it's lots of fun.

Culture Cues for September

1. Get necessary work in Cactus House organized for evening work.
2. Make new layout for greenhouse to utilize the best growing conditions for each plant.
3. Sterilize sand for trays and benches. Cut back roots which have grown through drainage holes.
4. Withhold fertilizers. Remove muslin roof shades and let plants harden.
5. Set plants which are to be stored in basement and windows on side porch to accustom them to change in light.
6. Keep *Echinopsis* well watered to encourage late blooms.
7. Clear out all cuttings in "propagating sand", sterilize sand and make new cuttings for emergencies.
8. Keep *Zygocactus truncatus* dormant (buds for me this month).
9. Give special attention to the following cacti and succulents which have bloomed for me in September. Cacti: *Malacocarpus ottonis*; *Epiphyllum anguliger*, *macropterum*, *pittieri*, *darrabii*, *cartagense*, *Ackermannii*, *oxypetalum*, *guatemalense*; *Astrophytum asterias*, *capricornis*, *ornatum*; *Cleistocactus baumannii*; *Fraileas pumila*, *grahamiana*; *Schlumbergera gaertneri*; *Rhipsalis boulletiana*; *Ariocarpus fissuratus*; *Harrisia martinii*; *Hamatocactus hamatacanthus*; *Mammillaria albicans*, *camptotricha* and variety *senilis*, *dolichocentra*, *kewensis*; and *Rebutia kupperiana*. Succulents: *Stapelia variegata* and variety *buena*, *comparabilis*; *Huernia schneideriana*, *occultata*, *penzigi*; *Haworthia tortuosa*; *Pleiosopilos magnipunctatus*; *Ceropegia woodii*, *barkleyii*, *stapeliiformis*; and *Sedum sieboldii*.



READY FOR WINTER

Photo by Ray Naylor

This picture was taken on August 31, 1942. That would seem to be an early date to take up one's plants, even in this state with its very long winters. However, I'd tried something different with them last year. Many of them had been in the same container for at least two years, some as much as four. I decided that a change was in order. So, early in May I had built three raised beds back of the garage, edged by rocks, and containing plenty of sand, some lime, and a little plant food in addition to the rich Iowa loam already there. I took these all out of their old containers, and set them out for the summer, as I would have any house plant in the old days, before my mind was centered on cacti. The exposure was east, the earliest morning sun striking the plants as it rose. And they also had sun until around two to three in the afternoon, so they had lots of it. They grew and thrived, many of them doubling in size in the less than four months. Lots of them bloomed, too. In all I have about three hundred species in my private collection, some of them tiny seedlings, some quite mature plants, the oldest came to me in the spring of 1937. With this group and some other larger plants not taken up yet I had blooms from fifty species of cacti, and thirty-seven species of succulents during 1942. Now, this spring, there have already budded or bloomed twenty species of cacti and thirteen of succulents, by the best count I can make, so the treatment worked. Some of the plants have already had two applications of fertilizer about a month apart, and all of them showing growth have had at least one. Since I do not have a greenhouse, I take advantage of all of the light I can get. I also feel that a good rest of at least two months is most advisable for both cacti and succulents. I've learned something else this winter. To keep plants like Echeverias, Sedums, Crassulas, *dry and cool*. They will keep their beautiful shapes and colors, and thus I have been rewarded—for what would appear to be neglect. Of course when these plants start to bud they need a small amount of water, but not too much. I shall be glad to answer enquiries from people who have short growing seasons like we have here.

MRS. E. T. SUTTON, Jefferson, Iowa.

YOUNG PEOPLE SEEK CACTOPHILES

Just what is wrong with New York, that we don't have an affiliated club? We have the Bronx Botanical Gardens, which has some beauties in its cactus house, so why can't we have a club? I know of only one other collector on Staten Island, though there may be others. There is a large commercial greenhouse here that used to grow very nice cacti, but they have decreased their stock of succulents considerably.

I guess I should have stayed back where I came from (Ann Arbor, Michigan). From what I hear, Ann Arbor has two swell collectors—Elzada Clover and Otto Laporte.

Last Christmas father gave me a soil testing kit and I found out that my cactus soil was only fair in nitrogen and very poor in phosphorus. So that's why

I never had too many flowers. Well, this year it will be different (I hope).

I would also appreciate it if you would publish my name as being desirous of correspondance. Right now I'm laid up with a fractured knee, so I would doubly appreciate it. I am home from the hospital now, but still on crutches.

EILEEN M. CURRAN,
35 Caldera Pl., Staten Island, N. Y.

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AFFILIATE NOTES

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CACTUS EXCHANGE

No meeting was held in July due to lack of time to prepare a program and meeting place. The next meeting will probably be in December.

CENTRAL IOWA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CLUB

For July, the Hostess was Mrs. C. Kennedy and the lesson "Old Men Cacti" by Mrs. Wm. Schnable.

HENRY SHAW CACTUS SOCIETY

Congratulations on your first Anniversary, also on the Birthday Bulletin. The July meeting was a picnic held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Blandford, no special program was announced in their Cactus Digest, but I can imagine it was a general talk-fest about their plants and what they had accomplished in the first year of their Society and the plans for the coming year. In Cactographs, Mr. Cutak had a most interesting article on the night-blooming cerei in the Cactus House, describing the plants and the flowers of *Hylocereus undatus*, *H. costaricensis* and *Eriocereus Martinii*.

MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Met at the Donald Gray Memorial Gardens for a picnic and general get-together, no special subject or speaker given. From their Bulletin Spine Tips: "In the May, 1943, Journal, Scott Haselton, Editor, announces the preparation of an Epiphyllum book, good news for us who do not have much luck with our Epiphyllums." Then there is a list of 15 Epiphyllums, size and color of flower, recommended in "Cactaceae" by Marshall and Bock.

Let's hear from all the Affiliates on Epiphyllums, and show Mr. Haselton under with Epiphyllum fan mail.

SOUTHWEST CACTUS GROWERS

They are busy outlining their work for the coming year. They will continue with the study of Sedums. Mr. and Mrs. Rush will give the talks and bring plants for demonstration.

K.I.O. CACTUS CLUB, CINCINNATI, OHIO

C. R. Cole of the K. I. O. broke into print in the October issue of the Cincinnati Automobile Club's "Motour." The subject "Old Mexico in Eden Park" called attention to the "Cactus Wing" of the Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati's Eden Park where visitors can become initiated to the spiny natives of Mexico.

We wonder if that active group of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio cactophiles is going to put on another exhibit this year. We recall the publicity about their educational display at the Garden Center and the many fine write-ups in November issues of "The Cincinnati Post." Other groups could conduct similar shows which helps this hobby to survive the "duration."

The exhibit of cacti and other succulents which the K. I. O. Cactus Club staged consisted of:

A large table display was given over to 35 types of cacti, arranged to show the evolution of the plant *Pereskia aculeata* which has deciduous leaves and climbs more like a rose than a cactus, through the spiny kinds of the spindly *Rhipsalis*. A brief description and the habitat accompanied each plant.

There were other groups of succulents and "swamp cacti" besides the window display of planted bowls of Indian pottery, prepared by Mrs. Seinsheimer. The walls were covered with pictures and nearby tables

showed the recommended books and magazines.

Mrs. Light, Mrs. Geer, Mrs. Diehl, and Messrs. Cole, Neumann, Combs, Annable, and Schnurr supplied the plants and if this same gang has anything to do with planning the next National Convention we can look forward to a worthwhile "conference."

Mr. Cole writes, "At our May meeting we had a very interesting reading by Rev. Annable. The reading was from Audubon's America, edited by Dr. C. Peattie, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1940.

The eccentric Naturalist (Audubon meets Rafinesque) pp. 49-57, inc. We thought it so good that we think Scott might give a reprint of it and something along the same line about others that are known to most people by having their name tacked on to some plant. Ask Scott about it, will you?"

Mr. Haselton will try to do something about it when he can. In the meantime it might be a good idea if the different Affiliates looked it up, it might prove an entertaining subject for discussion.

A member in Hawaii writes, "This is an ideal place for Euphorbias, no frost. *Euphorbia splendens* and *Euphorbia lactea* are very common here, the first is used as a low hedge.

Missed not getting the "Heart of America Bulletin" this month. In reading over the various bulletins, letters, etc., of the Affiliates each month, I feel as if I am there at your meetings, also I am becoming familiar with the names of the different members and when? we have our next convention how I want to be there to meet all these Hobbyites I've been writing about.

NO MORE COFFEE RATIONING

That extra bit of caffeine that you now have access to should provide the necessary "umph," enabling you to drop a line to your Corresponding Secretary. The Affiliates are really interested in each other and would like to hear what you are doing.

MAYBELLE PLACE, Corresponding Secretary.

A YOUNG COLLECTOR IN NEW YORK

I started my collection about six years ago, on shelves in a window. It grew so fast that I soon had to move them out.

My father built me a very small greenhouse in which to house my plants. (See illustration on next page.)

I have about 180 plants in my collection. Most of them about 5 to 6 years old. I am very proud of my Old Man Cactus which is 6 inches tall with hair about the same length. It is a very beautiful plant.

I don't have any trouble in making my plants blossom. It seems that the atmosphere in the greenhouse must be perfect for cacti. I have had as many as 20 plants at once in bloom. It sure was a very rare sight to see, for this section of the country.

I have succeeded in getting some of the members of the local Garden Club to come and see my plants. They were very surprised to find that "those prickly things" could have such pretty flowers and colors.

I would be glad to show my collection to any one why might be travelling in N. Y. State. If you know of anyone you can tell them they are welcome to visit me.

I do not belong to any cactus society, so the JOURNAL has been such a friend to me. I have learned a great deal from it in the past year.

MARYELLEN MARTIN,
17, East Ave., Le Roy, N. Y.



FIG. 57. TOP LEFT: Mrs. C. R. Cole and part of the well arranged exhibit at the Garden Center in Cincinnati. TOP RIGHT: Mrs. Harry Lewis of Seattle is one of our best known members in the north-west. CENTER: The "2x4" glasshouse of Maryellen Martin in New York state. A ton of coal keeps her cactus cozy during the winter. LOWER LEFT: Prof. Arthur Blocher of Illinois knows how to make cacti flower in his spare time between directing four bands, instructing, concerts, etc. LOWER RIGHT: Lee Chambers, one of the founders of the Cactus Society, enjoying the giants near Sells, Arizona.

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